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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

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ROBERT S. RANGEL, STAFF DIRECTOR

VOTE FOR A SECURE AMERICA: VOTE YES ON H.R. 4546 THE FY 2003 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Dear Colleague:

This week, the House will consider H.R. 4546, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003. As the first defense bill crafted entirely since September 11, H.R. 4546 embodies our nation's unwavering commitment to winning the war against terrorism. Reflecting the strong bipartisan support behind this commitment, the House Armed Services Committee reported H.R. 4546 on May 1 by an overwhelming vote of 57 to 1.

Fiscal year 2003 will mark the fifth consecutive year of real increases to the defense budget. After 13 consecutive years of declining defense budgets, this is an important trend to maintain. Thanks to the Administration's solid defense budget request, the House Armed Services Committee was able to target three key areas: defending the American homeland against terrorism and ballistic missiles; supporting the military personnel who are fighting the war against terrorism; and giving our military the training, equipment, and weapons it needs to win the war against terrorism.

I urge you to support H.R. 4546, as this bill is critical to our continued efforts to rebuild America's military and better defend the homeland. To assist you in better understanding the contents of this year's authorization bill, I have included a package of materials that I hope you will find useful. If I may be of additional assistance, or if you have any questions, please contact me directly or the committee staff (5-4151).

Sincerely,



BOB STUMP
Chairman